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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China/USSR

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SUBJECT Political and Economic Information: Communication
Between Mukden and Harbin

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1. It is not advisable for Mukden residents to move to Harbin, as living conditions for former Russian emigres are as bad there as they are in Mukden. Small businessmen and laborers sent from the USSR are the only persons who live well in Harbin. The Soviet Government controls the Harbin Chinese Government. There is a big demand for US dollars; the rate is 65,000 Communist dollars to one US dollar. Mukden residents who have relatives in Harbin are advised to send them US dollars in order to keep them from starving during the coming winter.
2. A communications service employing Chinese couriers is operating actively between Harbin and Mukden. Delivery is guaranteed by the Churin Company, which acts as a clearing agency at both ends of the network. The postage for a letter of one page written on thin paper is US \$2, but any size letter will be delivered at extra cost. The service will deliver US currency for 30 percent handling charge. The time necessary for a round trip from Mukden varies from two weeks to two months, the average length being one month.
3. All accounting records for Churin Company are sent to Harbin as the Mukden office accounting is one and one-half years in arrears and complicated because of embezzlement of a former accountant. The Churin Company in Mukden is doing no business now but is being kept open in readiness for Communist occupation of the city.
4. Food conditions in the USSR are so poor that Soviet officials in Mukden send parcels by courier through Harbin to relatives in Russia.
5. L. V. Almazov, Soviet Trade Representative in Mukden, has been directed by Moscow to prevent fraternization between Soviet citizens and Americans. Degtev, assistant manager of the Mukden Churin Company, does no type of work at the store. He does not attempt to interfere with the personal lives of the Mukden Soviet residents.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. Both Almazov and Degtev have been reported as unofficial leader of the Mukden Soviet community.)

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